Removal of anti-farmer clauses of WTO agreement

3822. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1242, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether some State Governments have urged the Centre to amend or remove some anti-farmer clauses of the WTO agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The long-term objective of the WTO agreement on Agriculture is to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system in the world through a reform process of negotiations aiming at correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in the world agricultural markets.

Article 20 of the WTO agreement on Agriculture mandates negotiations to further carry forward the process of reform based on the experiences of the implementation of the Agreement. The Government held wide-ranging consultations with the different stakeholders including the State Governments, to formulate its negotiating proposals. From these consultations, the following key issues emerged which need upfront addrcssal in the country's negotiating proposals on the WTO agreement on Agriculture:

- To protect its food and livelihood security concerns and to secure greater flexibility to support domestic measures for agriculture development, poverty alleviation and rural employment.
- To create opportunities for expansion of agricultural exports by securing meaningful market access in developed countries.

The country's initial negotiating proposals on Food Security, Market Access, Export Competition and Domestic Support, have

been accordingly formulated and submitted to the WTO on 15.1.2001. The Indian proposals aim at.

- Increasing the flexibility enjoyed by developing countries for providing domestic support to the agriculture sector under the special and differential provisions as also further strengthening of trade defence mechanisms with a view to ensuring the food security and to take care of livelihood concerns.

- Demanding of substantial and meaningful reductions in tariffs including elimination of peak tariff and tariff escalation, substantial reductions in domestic support and elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries so as to get meaningful market access opportunities.

Deficiency of pulses, oil seeds and cotton

3823. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a deficiency of pulses, oil seeds and cotton in the country at present;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the incentives Government propose to offer to farmers to go in for cultivation of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The targets and achievements of production of pulses,